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Message Text

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44
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 /077 W
---------- 122575
R 300950Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5204
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 2176

NOFORN

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SN, NZ, MARR
SUBJ: WITHDRAWAL OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES FROM SINGAPORE

REFS: A. WELLINGTON 1423; B. SINGAPORE 1279

1. IN VIEW OF SOMEWHAT DIFFERING VERSION IN REFTELS CONCERNING DEGREE OF GOS INITIATIVE IN REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF NZ FORCES FROM SINGAPORE, DCM REVIEWED MATTER WITH ACTING NEW ZEALAND HIGH COMMISSIONER DAWSON DURING LUNCHEON CONVERSATION APRIL 29. DAWSON SAID DEPUTY P.M. TALBOYS HAD BEEN THE FIRST TO RAISE QUESTION OF CONTINUED STATIONING OF NZ FORCES IN SINGAPORE. DEPUTY P.M. GOH REPLIED BY SAYING THAT GOS COULD NO LONGER EXPECT NEW ZEALAND FORCES TO FIGHT SINGAPORE'S BATTLES, EX-PRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE STABILITY OF THE REGION, BUT INDICATED THERE WAS NO LONGER A NEED FOR THEIR PRESENCE. P.M. LEE WAS "SOMEWHAT MORE OBLIQUE" IN HIS REMARKS, BUT THEY GENERALLY CONFIRMED POSITION TAKEN BY MR.
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GOH. BOTH LEE AND GOH WERE QUITE WILLING TO ACCOMMODATE GNZ

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DESIRES CONCERNING THE TIMING OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF THESE FORCES. AIR COMMODORE GUNTON (COMMANDER NEW ZEALAND FORCES SINGAPORE) CONFIRMED ABOVE POSITION TO DAO IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION.

2. IN DISCUSSING POLITICAL RATIONALE FOR GOS INTEREST IN ENCOURAGING DEPARTURE OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES, DAWSON SAID LEE INDICATED THAT THE BEST WAY TO COUNTER THE COMMUNIST THREAT TO SEA WAS THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. IMPLICATION WAS THAT STATIONING OF FOREIGN FORCES IN THE AREA WAS AN OUTMODED AND NOT ESPECIALLY RELEVANT WAY OF DEALING WITH COMMUNIST SUBVERSION AND INSURGENCY. HOLDRIDGE

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